

DOCEPHEMERIDES CALASANCTIANAE



REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVE OF CATALONIA 2023



PRESENTATION

The Arxiu Provincial de l'Escola Pia de Catalunya has been housed since 1973 in the same building as the Provincial Curia in Barcelona. It preserves documents, books and heritage objects produced by or belonging to the province and the Piarists of Catalonia from the end of the 17th century to the present day, the bibliographical heritage being even older because it is the repository of the historical collection of the seminary of Moià and the libraries of the Catalan Piarist schools. Every year we publish our activity report in the magazine "Catalaunia", and now we present for the first time an extract of it through "Ephemerides" to make us known to the entire Piarist world community and contribute with it to highlight the value of preserving the documentary heritage and dissemination of the Piarist activity.

1. ONGOING PROJECTS

Camí de Calassanç

A few years ago, the idea arose of programming a route or hiking trail that would link places that had a significant relationship with Calasanz before his departure to Italy. This project has been mainly programmed and carried out by the Arxiu Provincial, carrying out work such as planning routes and monitoring the different stages on the ground, establishing agreements with hostels and town councils to guarantee resting places and setting up signposting elements for the route. The project will result in a web guide with information, photos and the respective "tracks" that can be followed or downloaded to mobile phones. The sections between Balaguer and La Seu d'Urgell, which coincides with the growth stage of the ecclesiastical Calasanz, will be completed between 2023 and 2024.

Online digital repository

Throughout the year work has been done on the creation of the *Dipòsit Digital de l'APEPC* <https://ddapepc.escolapia.cat/>, a digital repository of old documents and journals digitised in the archive in

free access. In December this portal opens with an initial collection of 6 journals and 45 public examinations from the 19th century. An agreement has been reached with the Biblioteca Nacional de Catalunya so that the journals included in this repository and those that will be added from now on can also be consulted from the [Premsa Catalana Digitalitzada](#) portal, along with many more digitised historical publications from Catalonia.

Inventory of assets

As mentioned in the presentation, the archive also manages collections of heritage and art objects. The cataloguing of heritage items consists of describing the object in all its aspects and, if known, also outlining its history. One or more photographs are also taken to complete the description. The *Omeka* platform is used for the register, *which* allows for open access online exhibitions if deemed appropriate. At the end of the year, 1,850 objects had been inventoried, including paintings, sculptures, antique objects and medals, among others. The idea is to obtain a catalogue of the whole province and, at the same time, to influence decision-making when it comes to issues related to heritage (works, change of location, conservation, transfers, exhibitions, etc.).

Bibliographic heritage

We continue to catalogue our historical library (printed publications over 100 years old) in the Collective Catalogue of the Bibliographic Heritage of Catalonia (CCUC), an open access catalogue that includes old books and publications kept in Catalan university libraries, religious organisations and other cultural institutions. In 2023, 510 records belonging to books printed from the 16th century to 1923 have been catalogued, an important part of which are unique copies. The cataloguing of books from the 16th-18th centuries has been made possible thanks to a grant that has enabled the hiring of a specialised librarian. The provincial library has approximately 50,000 volumes, a third of which date from 1483 to 1835.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHIVAL AND HERITAGE HOLDINGS

The day-to-day work naturally includes the selection, description and conservation of archival collections. The archive has approximately 850 metres of linear documentation concerning the schools and institutions of the province, but also personal collections of Piarists, foundations and entities associated with the Pious School and also some series and funds that have nothing to do with the order, but that have trusted us to keep them. The following are some of the most relevant additions and additions.

The cataloguing of the collection of the Calasancio School in Barcelona, closed in 2007, with a very important volume of documentation, has been completely finished. Since it was transferred in 2008, this collection has been treated in several stages and has had the collaboration of archival students on internships, the last one this year.

The collection of the Pious School of Cuba is very interesting. It is not described in its entirety and an important part is the photographic collection, which has been worked on by the archivist Marga Ortiz, hired thanks to a grant. She has had the invaluable help of the Piarists Joan Florensa and Marian Federico as identifiers of people, times and places, especially the latter who contributed his personal experience on the Caribbean island. Their work has resulted in the description of 1,902 photographs.

We have received transfers of documentation from central services and foundations: the Communication department delivered a collection of several hundred slides and images of the Piarist action in Cuba, Senegal and Mexico between 1990 and 2000; the Technical Secretariat transferred documentation from 1989-2014 concerning the organisation of events, meetings and documents of a pedagogical nature issued by the Secretariat de les Institucions Educatives. On the other hand, the recently created Fundació Camins handed over the administrative funds of the associations Benallar, which between 2004 and 2016 was dedicated to the management of flats for people at risk of exclusion, and Verdallar, dedicated to providing work for these people in vegetable gardens near Barcelona, which produced vegetables that were subsequently distributed in baskets to individuals who contracted this service. Another entry was that of the Escola de Pares, with 21 boxes with documents of activities, programmes and meetings and a complete collection of its magazine, "Lligams". From the Escola Pia de Sabadell came several boxes with student records and other documentation from its secretariat between 1940 and 1990 and also a

sample of work by high school students between 1993 and 2018. Finally, from the school's old meteorological observatory, a collection of books and historical magazines was brought in.

We have also received small external donations: a family handed over a small group of school books and notebooks belonging to a former pupil of the Pia School in Igualada in the 1930s and a person handed over a diploma in Commerce, issued in 1927 by the Pia School in Mataró, to which his grandfather had belonged.

Finally, we highlight some increases of personal Piarist funds: relatives of Jordi Puig Puigdomènech (1935-1998) gave several documents that increase his personal collection, including an interesting photographic album with school and personal images. Marian Federico gave several documents and personal writings of his time at the Pious School of Granelles. In September we went to the community of Sant Calassanç (Barcelona) to select and collect documents of Josep Maria Beltran (1934-2023), who died last June.

This year 2023, 107 archive boxes have entered the repository, representing an increase of 13 linear metres of paper documents.

Museum fund

The patrimonial collection has increased in several elements, we highlight some of them: from the community of Sant Antoni (Barcelona) two statues, one of Calasanz and another one in marble of Saint Anthony Abbot. From the Pious School of Sitges we received another Calasanz and finally from Escola Pia Nostra Senyora (Barcelona) a life-size image of the Virgin Mary. From the school in Sabadell came 10 pictorial works, a collection of school plates of sacred history printed at the beginning of the 20th century and various laboratory apparatus. From the community of Igualada came the *Mossèn Josep Còdol Social and Civic Commitment Award* 2018, granted by the Igualada City Council to the Solidarity Education Foundation and the Piarist Manel Bagunyà (1939-2020).

3. PERSONS

Consultations

Throughout 2023, 196 user consultations have been registered, 100 internal and 96 external. These figures match the figures for 2019 and reflect the recovery of the service since 2020.

Among these consultations, it is worth highlighting a few: in February, the Secretary General Antoni Burgaya asked for historical information on leisure time education at Escola Pia de Catalunya for a communication to the Catalan Parliament in the framework of the debate on the composition of the new Consell Escolar d'Educació. The Escola Pia de Sarrià is asked to provide documentary evidence of its status as a historical entity, a title awarded by Barcelona City Council to entities with more than 100 years of service to the community. In May, a researcher studying the work of the architect Enric Sugranyes, who designed the building of the Escuela Pía Balmes (Barcelona), consulted with great interest the original plans we have in the archive. Every year, the teachers who start working in our schools receive the so-called Initial Training. The human resources department asked Eduard Puigventós, as provincial historian and representative of the archive, to give the historical part of this training. Throughout the year, Enric Sàrries has been consulting historical documentation for the history of the old Piarist school of Puigcerdà, a town located in the Girona Pyrenees, which is expected to be published in 2024.

In October, a doctoral student at the Faculty of History of the University of Barcelona became interested in the Antoni Borrell Folch collection, specifically the Marqués de Campo subfonds, for his doctoral thesis entitled *Els consignataris del port de Barcelona en el pas de la vela al vapor (1849-1900) (Consignees of the Port of Barcelona in the transition from sailing to steam (1849-1900))*.

Researcher publications.

In mid-September, some professors from the University of Camagüey, in Cuba, contacted the provincial archive to request information and a reproduction of an article from 1887, of which we have a copy, by Father Pius Galtés about some fossil plants that this Piarist discovered in El Chorrillo, on the outskirts of this town, this being the first scientific work on Cuban palaeophytology. This request resulted in the article *La memoria del Padre Pío Galtés sobre los fósiles vegetales de El Chorrillo; nueva mirada 136 años después*, published in the Cuban university magazine "Monteverdia" and as a consequence also the "rediscovery" this



year of the collection of Cuban fossil plants deposited in the Museum of the Pious School of Sarriá. Also related to Cuba, the magazine “Además de”, published by the National Museum of Decorative Arts, published in its issue number 9 (2023) the article *A Pickman crockery from La Cartuja de Sevilla for the Piarists of Guanabacoa in Havana*, the crockery analysed by the author, Juan Carlos du Bouchet, is part of the patrimonial collection of the provincial archive.

Trainees.

Two students did their internships at the archive in 2023. A student from the Escola Universitària d'Arxivística i Gestió Documental de Catalunya (ESAGED), has worked with the collection of the Calasancio School, and a student from the Escola Pia Luz Casanova (Barcelona) in the digitisation of the collection of pamphlets and public examinations of the 19th century.

Visits and meetings.

In January the rector of the Christopher Columbus University, José Manuel Asún, visited the archive. During his visit, we discussed possible collaboration in the area of digitisation of the archives. At the end of the year, in December, through this contact, we arranged an interview with the head of the Barcelona Supercomputing Center, with whom we had a cordial interview about possible joint actions with other institutions in this area. In mid-February, Fiacre Diatta, rector of the Monte Mario community in Rome, a place where Piarists from outside Europe live in formation. In October we had another illustrious visit, the Piarist and philosopher Octavi Fullat, who presented his new book. *Paideia-Humánitas*.

Several groups visited us. On 25th April, students from the Master's Degree in Libraries and Heritage Collections of the University of Barcelona made a

complete visit to our archive and facilities. In mid-May a group of 25 people representing the different associations of families of Catalan schools visited our facilities for a complete tour. Also in May, a group of SEFED vocational training students from Granollers visited the archive and finally about 20 people who are part of the Associació Camins, recently created with the merger of all the social foundations of Escola Pia de Catalunya, visited the archive.

Finally, we would like to highlight the visit that two members of the archive, Eduard and Oriol, made in November to the General Archive of the Order, in San Pantaleo. We were accompanied by Aniol Noguera and the historian Ignasi Fernández Terricabras. The aim of the visit to the General Archive was to get to know its characteristics and organisation, but also to meet its archivist, Alessandra Merigliano. There we consulted old documentation on the Catalan Pious School. Although we could not consult 2 boxes because their documents were under restoration, we found in others many interesting documents about schools such as those of Oliana, Igualada, Cuba, Valls or Reus. Aniol Noguera visited the archives of the Roman church of Montserrat, which Calassanç frequented, and found interesting threads to pull. For his part, Ignasi Fernández Terricabras visited the state archives to consult documents of Catalan notaries who worked in Rome in the 17th century, in search of possible relations between Calassanç and them, especially during his first years in the city.

To conclude this section, it is worth noting that on 19 September the Provincial Congregation canonically appointed the archive workers Eduard Puigventós and Oriol Casanovas as Provincial Historian and Provincial Archivist respectively.

4. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

These activities, which have been supported by the Pious School of Catalonia, have been organised directly by the archive with the help of volunteers.

Exhibition *La dona a l'Escola Pia*.

Based on a proposal from the Secretariat's gender commission to commemorate 8 March, a small investigation was carried out on the role of women in the Pious School of Catalonia, which included oral testimonies from Piarists and materialised in an exhibition in the Central Services building and Provincial Curia during the month of March entitled *La dona a l'Escola Pia: història, pors, canvis i evolució*, and the publication of an article in "Catalaunia". This exhibition was also sent to the schools so that each of them could adapt it with their own support materials.

Escola Pia Research Day

On 20 May 2023, the first edition of a conference dedicated to research on the Piarist theme was held in the historic building of the Pious School of Moià. It was attended by 13 speakers and about thirty registered participants. Among others, the historians Héctor López Silva, Jaume Clarà and Joan Florensa himself took part in it. The proceedings will be published in 2024.

International Archives Week

Around 9 June every year we try to hold a small event to commemorate International Archives Day, usually an exhibition of historical documentation and objects. This year we asked central services workers if they would like to contribute their own school material to be part of the exhibition along with other archival material. We had a good response from our colleagues with the contribution of pencil cases, folders and other school materials.

Calassància route

This activity has been carried out for several years and is led by the archive. During a few days in July a group of new Piarist juniors visit the territories marked by the presence of Calasanz before going to Rome. This year the route was from Peralta de la Sal to Barcelona, passing through Claverol, Balaguer, Castell de Mur or Gerri de la Sal. Forty novices of fifteen different nationalities coordinated by Eduard Puigventós and Aniol Noguera enjoyed this experience, being especially exciting for some of them the visit to the remains of the old chapel of Sanaüja, where Calasanz was ordained priest in 1585.

Research and publications promoted by the archive.

Aniol Noguera, Piarist and collaborator of the archive, publishes the article *L'escuela Pia de Castellbò* in the magazine "Interpontes: estudis de l'Alt Urgell", number VII (2022), in which he explains the origins and evolution of this school founded at the beginning of the 18th century. Together with Eduard Puigventós, head of the archive service, he continues his research on Calasanctian documents in the municipal and chapter archives of La Seu d'Urgell, gathering enough material to be able to publish an article in the journal "Urgellia" in the issue scheduled for 2024. Finally, Aniol Noguera presented the communication *Antoni Janer, mercader de la Seu d'Urgell at the VIIth Jornada d'Estudis de l'Alt Urgell* in the municipality of Arsèguel on the 18th of November. This merchant, an interesting figure, was an important figure in the commercial world of La Seu d'Urgell at the end of the 16th century and the beginning of the 17th century and was in contact with Josep Calassanç.

For his part, Eduard Puigventós has carried out a study on Canon Ramon Corbella, who was a refugee in Guanabacoa sheltered by the Piarists after the Third Carlist War (1872-1876) in an article that will also appear this year. Another initiative under investigation is the possible involvement of a group of scouts from the Pious School of Olot in the trafficking of clandestine and forbidden books across the border with France during Franco's dictatorship, a subject suggested by Enric Canet.

Joan Florensa with the collaboration of Eduard Puigventós have written this year 2023 two chapters of a publication coordinated by Josep González Agápito on the cultural resistance from some Catalan religious schools during Franco's dictatorship, which is also planned to appear this year 2024. In addition, Joan Florensa has collaborated in all the issues of "Catalaunia", writing in two sections, as well as publishing the article *De Moià (1683) a Barcelona (1815)* (issue 528, January-February 2023). Florensa is also finalising the biography of Bishop Andreu Capella, with whom Calassanç collaborated during his time at La Seu d'Urgell. His main source of information is that provided by the collection of the Piarist Josep Poch, complemented with other information from archives and new bibliography.

Bonaventura Pedemonte, Piarist and daily collaborator of the archive, attended a conference in Poland on Stanislaw Konarski (1700-1773), a Piarist who was the first person appointed Minister of Education of a country. In his lecture he reviewed the influence of the Enlightenment on the Piarist mentality, on Konarski himself and other thinkers and on the evolu-

tion of the Pious Schools in Spain in the 18th century.

The archive's history blog, "*La Plega de l'Arxiu*" <http://laplega.escolapia.cat> has published 6 history articles also written by Joan Florensa and Eduard Puigventós.

We invite all readers of Ephemerides who are interested in getting to know the archive, library and its holdings to contact us by e-mail: arxiu.provincial@escolapia.cat.

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